

Summary (trend)

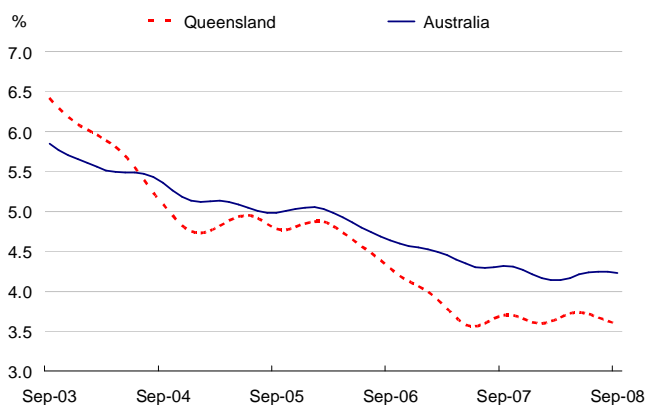
Employment: (persons)	Queensland, ↑ 5,100 (0.2%) Australia, ↑ 7,300 (0.1%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland, unchanged 3.6% Australia, unchanged 4.2%
Labour Force: (persons)	Queensland, ↑ 4,400 (0.2%) Australia, ↑ 6,000 (0.1%)

- Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (5,100 persons) in September 2008, to be 3.0% higher over the year. Annual employment growth was comprised of 53,900 full time and 10,500 part time jobs.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland was unchanged at 67.4% in September 2008, 0.3 percentage point higher than September 2007.
- The trend unemployment rate in Queensland remained at 3.6% in September 2008, the equal lowest trend unemployment recorded in the 30-year history of the current *Labour Force* series.
- Trend employment nationally rose 0.1% in September, and the trend unemployment rate remained at 4.2%.
- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 2,200 in September 2008, slightly above the market expectation of nil jobs growth. The national sa unemployment rate rose to 4.3% from 4.1%, in line with the market consensus.

Analysis

- In the coming months, employment growth is likely to weaken, reflecting a number of factors, including:
 - Moderating domestic economic conditions, evidenced by weakness in partial indicators of economic activity such as credit growth, equity prices, building approvals and retail trade, will hinder business profitability and may limit hiring intentions going forward.
 - Leading indicators also suggest that labour demand and jobs growth will remain soft. The Queensland DEWR Skilled Vacancy Index (trend) fell 5.6% in September.

**Chart 1
Unemployment rate, trend**

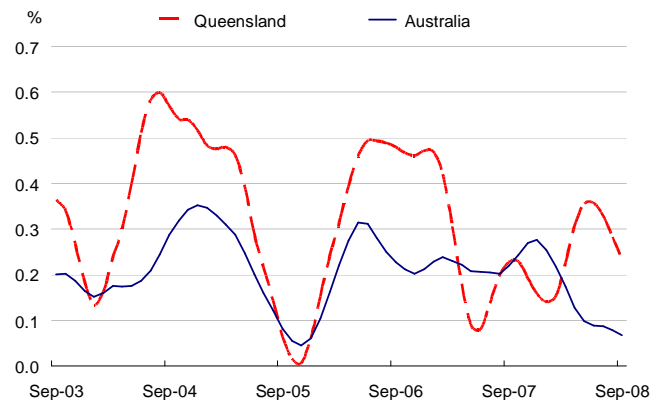


Note: Charts for September may not be consistent with table 1 due to rounding.

**Table 1
Labour force, September 2008**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	5,100	7,300	0.2	0.1	3.0	2.0
Full-time	6,000	11,800	0.4	0.2	3.5	2.3
Part-time	-900	-4,500	-0.2	-0.1	1.8	1.3
Labour Force	4,400	6,000	0.2	0.1	2.9	1.9
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	-11,000	2,200	-0.5	0.0	2.6	1.9
Full-time	-10,700	-15,500	-0.7	-0.2	3.2	2.3
Part-time	-300	17,600	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.9
Labour Force	-1,900	24,000	-0.1	0.2	2.5	2.0
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.2	3.7	4.3
Seas. Adjusted	3.7	4.3	3.3	4.1	3.7	4.2
Participation Rate						
Trend	67.4	65.2	67.4	65.2	67.1	65.1
Seas. Adjusted	67.3	65.1	67.5	65.1	67.3	65.1

**Chart 2
Monthly employment growth, trend**



**Table 2
Interstate comparison, September 2008**

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (No.)	5,100	-5,700	1,200	1,000	6,300	1,300	7,300
% change on a year ago	3.0	1.0	1.2	2.2	4.2	5.6	2.0
Change on a year ago (No.)	64,400	33,200	31,300	17,200	46,900	12,700	210,900
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (No.)	4,400	-5,200	100	1,900	5,100	1,200	6,000
% change on a year ago	2.9	1.2	1.1	2.4	3.6	4.2	1.9
Change on a year ago (No.)	64,200	41,600	29,900	19,200	42,100	10,000	210,400
Unemployment Rate							
September-08	3.6	4.8	4.4	5.0	2.9	3.9	4.2
August-08	3.6	4.8	4.5	4.9	3.0	4.0	4.2
September-07	3.7	4.7	4.5	4.9	3.4	5.2	4.3
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.5	-1.3	-0.1
Participation Rate							
September-08	67.4	63.2	64.5	63.4	69.1	62.6	65.2
August-08	67.4	63.3	64.6	63.3	68.9	62.4	65.2
September-07	67.1	63.2	65.0	62.6	68.4	60.7	65.1
Monthly Difference	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
Annual Difference	0.3	0.0	-0.5	0.8	0.7	1.9	0.1

***Note:** The ABS reduced the sample size of this survey by 24% (or 13,300 persons nationally) in the July 2008 survey month, citing "a tight budget situation in 2008-09, which has led to a range in reductions in the ABS work program". This raised the sample standard error, and the volatility of the series. Hence, particular caution should be used when interpreting labour force data from July 2008. This follows an 11% reduction (6,800 persons) between November 2007 and June 2008.